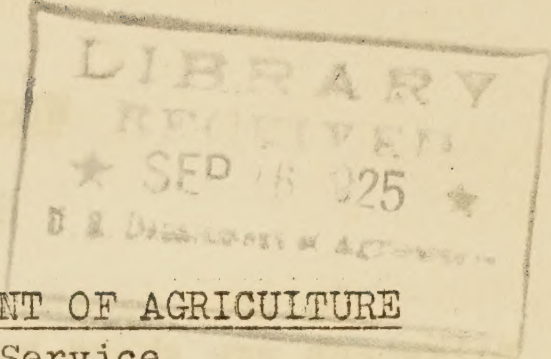


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service

Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

WHORLED MILKWEED

A booth section exhibit giving general information about whorled milkweed; and showing the symptoms of animals poisoned by it.

Specifications

- Floor space - - - - - 8' front
- Wall space - - - - - None
- Shipping weight - - - - - 225 lbs.
- Electrical Requirements - - - None

WHORLED MILKWEED

How It Looks

In this exhibit the poisonous nature of whorled milkweeds are shown by three photographs at the bottom of the section. The left picture shows how quickly it affects cattle. The middle picture shows the characteristic symptoms of poisoned sheep and the picture to the right shows horses in spasms after eating whorled milkweed.

Above the pictures of the animals poisoned by the weed are shown three large photographs, in natural colors, of the three most common and deadly species of the whorled milkweed. The areas in the United States where each of these species is most abundant are shown by the shaded portions of outline maps.

In the center, near the top, the text briefly explains milkweed poisoning, and the difficulty of eradicating the plant.

The section is eight feet long and four feet wide.

What It Tells

There are a number of Whorled Milkweeds, but the three illustrated in the exhibit are most important from the standpoint of the stockman. All produce similar symptoms, which are characterized in severe cases by violent spasms. The Mexican Whorled Milkweed, growing in Nevada and California, has caused heavy losses of sheep.

By far the most poisonous of these plants is Asclepias galioides, which is found in Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico, where it has caused heavy losses of sheep as well as deaths of many cattle. This plant, while of dry-land origin, adapts itself very readily to irrigated conditions, where it multiplies to such an extent that it may become a weed pest. This Whorled Milkweed is very poisonous, as small a quantity as two or three ounces being sufficient to produce fatal effects upon a hundred-pound sheep. The

same quantity per hundred pounds is poisonous to horses. Cattle are not quite so readily affected as sheep or horses.

The plant reproduces not only by seeds, but from buds from the roots, and this makes it very difficult to eradicate, for even very small pieces of the root will serve to start new growth. Ordinary cultivation, therefore, frequently seems to increase the plant rather than decrease its numbers. Persistent grubbing will produce good results eventually, and mowing of thick patches is often of temporary benefit.

There is no known remedy for animals poisoned by Whorled Milkweeds. The plant, however, is not attractive to any animals, and is eaten only when animals are forced to take them through lack of suitable feed. Many cases of poisoning have occurred when hungry animals have been trailed over patches of the milkweed, or have been bedded down in the vicinity of luxuriant growth of the plant. It is important that stock people learn to recognize the plant, and take especial care that hungry animals are not permitted to graze where the plants are abundant.

Where To Get Information

The following publications may be obtained free of charge from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Farmers' Bulletin	800	- Grains for Dry Lands of Central Oregon
Farmers' Bulletin	969	- Horse Beans
Farmers' Bulletin	942	- Controlling Clover-Flower Midge in Pacific Northwest.

